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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Viola Startzman Free Clinic Receives WorthyWorks Award

Orrville, Ohio, March 23, 2009; The Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce (OACC), in partnership with the Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF), is pleased to announce that the *Viola Startzman Free Clinic (VSFC)* will be recognized as the Chamber's 2009 recipient of the *WorthyWorks Award* annual Chamber banquet on April 21, 2009 at the Arden Shisler Conference Center in Wooster.

This award recognizes the important contributions that not-for-profit chamber members make to their community. Qualifying criteria is a commitment to the quality of life, social conscience, and betterment of the Orrville community and includes a \$1,000 contribution from the WCCF to support the continuing efforts of the organization.

"Since its opening in 1995, the Viola Startzman Free Clinic has served nearly 9,000 lower income, uninsured residents with free medical and dental services and in 2008, Orrville patients made nearly 1,300 visits to the clinic," said Jennifer J. Reusser, OACC President. "We are proud to have such a caring organization as a member of our Chamber."

2008 also represented the first full year that the VSFC offered individualized medical care for its 254 patients diagnosed with diabetes. This complicated and potentially life-threatening disease requires daily monitoring and treatment, as well as ongoing counseling. Dr. Everett Burgess, MD is one of the more than 225 volunteers to the clinic. A semi-retired endocrinologist from the Akron area, Dr. Burgess donates three hours each Tuesday to provide one-on-one counseling, education, and treatment to VSFC diabetic patients.

“We are honored and grateful to receive this award,” said John Moritz., the VSFC Executive Director. “It is such a positive affirmation of the commitment and dedication of our staff in partnership with the entire health care community in this county and the numerous volunteers that assist in our daily mission. Orrville partners include Dunlap Community Hospital, Orrville Area United Way, numerous businesses, service clubs, area churches, and other not-for-profit organizations.”

The VSFC is the third largest free clinic in Ohio and operates entirely from donations and grants. Donors should be very satisfied with the ability of the VSFC to provide \$4.00 worth of care for every \$1.00 donated.

“Today’s chamber of commerce model consists of collaborative networks of community and commercial leaders working together to develop and sustain educational, economic, and social service opportunities for its workforce and residents,” said Ferenc M. Relle, Jr., WCCF Executive Director. “Many of these leaders work at the not-for-profits organizations or share their business expertise by serving on their boards.”

Tickets are still available for the April 21 banquet, so please contact the Orrville Chamber office for reservations 330-682-8881 or e-mail chamberoffice@orvillechamber.com.

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Photo: The Viola Startzman Free Clinic

Photo Caption: The Viola Startzman Free Clinic has served nearly 9,000 lower income, uninsured residents with free medical and dental services since 1995.